



DIocese of Raleigh

Office of the Bishop

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October 2, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate Respect Life Month this October, we are invited to reflect on the theme for this year, "*Moved by Mercy.*" This theme reminds us of our call to show mercy, in the Light of God's mercy shown first and daily to us.

In this month dedicated to the respect and dignity of human life, I invite you to commit yourself to be an instrument of that mercy. With the example and prayers of our newly canonized Saint Teresa of Calcutta, prayerfully discern how you can bring compassion to all, with a special attention to those who may have forgotten His love and blessings; the aged, the infirmed, the migrant, the abused, the imprisoned, and the unborn. Let us also continue to work together for the protection of the sacredness and dignity of all human life at every stage. As God has first shown us His mercy, go out into our communities and be an instrument of that mercy to all.

In our solidarity to this common commitment, I especially invite you to join me as we witness to the gift of life through our prayer at the March for Life in Raleigh on January 21, 2017, and the National March for Life in Washington D.C. on January 27, 2017.

Be assured of a continued remembrance among my intentions. May Our Lord Jesus bless you with a merciful heart, and may Mary Our Mother watch over and guide you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Raleigh